(c) if so, what is the Government's policy regarding the introduction of these multinational products in the country; and

(d) what effect they are likely to have on indigenous products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (d) M/s. Coca Cola South Asia Holdings, Inc. USA has submitted an application for the manufacture of Proprietory compound preparations and extracts to be used in the manufacture of concentrates for non-alcoholic beverages in the NOIDA Export Processing Zone. The application is under consideration of the Government. M/s. Pepsico Inc., USA had sent a communication by telex to the Government of India expressing their concern in this regard.

Hike in the prices of Nickel, Tin and Zinc

1262. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA :Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that MMTC, which is a canalising agency, has hiked the prices of Nickel, Tin and Zinc;

(b) if so, what is its impact on industries which use these basic metals;

(c) what are the reasons for the increase: and

(d) whether this growth will adversely affect the growth of these industries?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (d) The domestic prices of nickel, tin and zinc are fixed every month by a Pricing Committee under the Chairmanship of Chief Controller of Imports & Fxports after taking into account the landed cost of imports by Mineral & Metals Trading Corporation Limited (MMTC), the canalising agency, with the prevailing import duties added. Thus, any increase in the international prices of these metals has *a* direct bearing on the domestic prices.

The prices of these non-ferrous metals since January, 1989 are indicated below:

Rs. per tonne

	Nickel	Tin	Zinc
January, '89	3,54,000	2,52,000	39,800
February, '89 .	3,75,000	2,52,000	42,500
March, '89	4,08,000	2,65,000	48,200
April, '89 . . .	4,23,000	2,96,000	50,500
May,'89 .	4,23,000	3,88,000	50,500

The production as well as growth of the down stream industries have not shown any decline due to increase in the prices of these non-ferrous metals. However. the price of the these non-ferrows metals have a bearing on the cost of production of manufactured goods to the extent of their use.